May Yours Bring You Untold Joy and Peace

GROUND ZERO NEWS

DEDICATED TO EXPLORING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITIES

DECEMBER 1995 | COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO | VOL. 3 , NO. 12

Pat Robertson Moves To Censor PFLAG Commercials

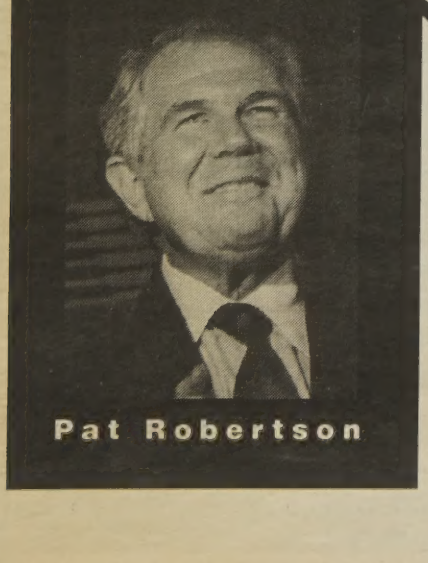
by Frank Whitworth

Bitten by the impact of his own viperous words used against him, TV Evangelist, Christian Coalition godfather and anti-gay guru Pat Robertson has struck multiple times against the new advertising campaign designed by Parents, Families and Friends of Gays And Lesbians (PFLAG). The campaign is designed to identify and combat the self-serving rhetoric of fear and hate being used by the radical right that is causing violence and promoting continuation of the lies and myths developed by the likes of Paul Cameron and by Focus on the Family's Family Research Council, about who and what gays and lesbians are.

Long deeply troubled by the violence and hate directed at their gay and lesbian children, relatives and friends, P-FLAG determined to address the problems directly. Believing that the rhetoric that has been used and is being used by the right is at the root of the problem, a campaign to be called "Project Open Mind" was produced and introduced at the P-FLAG national convention in the Fall.

The television commercials use the words and images of Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Senator Jesse Helms, and others, and relate them to acts of violence, intolerance and bigotry running amuck around the country and, indeed, around the world. They are hard-hitting and no nonsense. The great impact of the commercials lies in the fact that they use actual footage of Radical Right figures over backgrounds depicting the result of their words.

Pat Robertson doesn't want you to hear these hateful words on TV.
"Homosexuality is moral perversion and is always wrong. God hates homosexuality."
Rev. Jerry Falwell
"A lot of us are sick and tired of all the pretenses of injured innocence. They are not innocent."
Sen. Jesse Helms
Rev. Pat Robertson
Rev. Jerry Falwell
Sen. Jesse Helms
"Homosexuality is an abomination. Many of those people involved with Adolf Hitler were Satanists, many of them were homosexuals. The two things seem to go together."
Rev. Pat Robertson.
We're PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and we put those ugly words of Rev. Pat Robertson, Rev. Jerry Falwell and Sen. Jesse Helms into our television commercials.
We wanted you to see and hear some of the voices of hate that help create the climate of violence in which our children have to live. But most of you never saw the commercials. Pat Robertson and his Christian Broadcasting Network threatened to sue any station that dared to run them. And most stations have been scared away.
CNN agreed to run the ad on the Larry King Show, then backed down after receiving a threatening letter from Rev. Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Network. In Houston, the CBS affiliate announced it was going to run our commercial, then reneged the next day. The NBC affiliate in Tulsa ran our commercial for several days, then took it off the air after a threatened lawsuit. Apparently, Robertson and Falwell and their friends see nothing wrong with broadcasting their discriminatory language on their own programs. But they threaten legal action when their words are linked to the climate of intolerance they help create.
Almost every day, we see new evidence of the relationship between hateful language and violent acts. Hate crimes against gays and lesbians are on the rise. It's estimated that as many as 30% of teenage suicide victims are gay or lesbian. That's the story we tried to tell in our commercials. That's the story they want to silence. But the lives of our sons and daughters are at stake, and we will not be silenced.
Help us stand up to these voices of division. We need to show them that, in America today, their politics of hate hasn't got a prayer.
Call the Christian Broadcasting Network at 804-579-7000 and tell them you reject their message of intolerance and division.
I support your efforts to create a tolerant society where all Americans can live openly and safely. To help you get your message out, I am enclosing a check for
$250 ___ $100 ___ $50 ___ Other ___
Name
Address
Phone
Send check to PFLAG P.O. Box 96519 Washington DC 20090-6519
PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG WAS FORCED TO RUN THIS AD IN *USA TODAY*

To combat the attacks by Robertson, PFLAG contracted to buy a one-half page ad in *USA Today* (see picture) and media news interest will almost certainly propel Project Open Mind to levels of visibility that were unthought of in planning the campaign. Robertson has also threatened legal action against *USA Today*. Some legal experts have voiced the opinion that Robertson's efforts at censorship will ultimately be held as violating the First Amendment Rights of PFLAG and that organization will be free to air the ads as they please.

Gay and lesbian leaders have suggested that Robertson doesn't mind using his anti-gay rhetoric on his own network, where he is singing to the choir to inflame emotion to greater giving, but sees the damage those same words will do to him when viewed by the general public. One leader expressed the opinion that "If Robertson doesn't want to eat the bread, then he shouldn't bake it."

Jane McBee

queer's eye view©

by Frank Whitworth

NO COMPROMISE

Some months ago I told a friend that the radical right did not want to talk; that they did not want to negotiate; that the radical right did not want to compromise. I stand by that statement.

However, my statement was misinterpreted and applied to all so called "fundamentalist" Christians. I do not believe this and I do not support such a belief.

Long ago, I stopped using the word "Religious Right" in exchange for the more accurate term, "Radical Right." While most of the radical right claims some form of fundamentalist Christian ties---NOT ALL PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES FUNDAMENTALISTS CHRISTIANS ARE PART OF THE RADICAL RIGHT. In fact, I would bet that most are not.

Many fundamentalist Christians reject the extremism of the radical right and some of their own sect leaders. Time and again I talk to faithful conservative Christians who reject the politicization of their churches; reject the rhetoric of intolerance and hate; reject the suborning of the teachings and words of Christ to other parts of the Bible and reject "selective" use of the Bible and "opportunistic" interpretations of those passages for secular and political gain.

It was Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family and the likes of Kevin Tebedo, Lou Sheldon, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, etc., who have declared that there is "no compromise," on the issues of "choice" and "homosexuality."

SPEAKING OF...

It is rumored that Dr. James Dobson, political and spiritual leader of Focus on the Family, recently issued a memorandum to his "faithful" employees that he wanted the organization and its employees to steer clear of local politics because Focus' objectives are more "focused" on national policy and elections. Of course, Focus initiated community-based Family Councils still are free to follow their own political activities.

NEO NAZIS

We are all growing more and more aware of the atrocities and genocidal activities in Bosnia. Recently, on a visit to Colorado Springs, anti-Nazi campaigner Graeme Atkinson revealed that mercenary neo-Nazis from Germany and Austria, contrary to the laws of their respective countries, have been very active in the former Yugoslavia. In fact. one unit of around five hundred German neo-Nazi mercenaries in the Croat army is directly linked directly to many of the known actions of genocide, murder and rape of Moslems.

Atkinson also informed the meeting at Colorado College, sponsored by Ground Zero, Citizens Project, the Urban League, *The Independent* and the Diversity Enrichment Commitee that Fascist organizations across Europe were linking to support each other and to build their strength through this unity, giving one the fearful prospect that several hundred thousand "fascists" sympathizers are becoming a cohesive element in the European community. Additionally, because publication of Nazi materials in many of these European countries is illegal, U.S. Fascist groups maintain contact, principally through the Internet, supplying hate literature and weapons information..

One of the dominant themes common to neo-Nazis across Europe is interesting to us because it is similar to some racists' opinions through much of American history, who suggested that the solution to the "Negro problem" was to ship them back where they belong. Fascists organizations in each European country believe that all foreigners in their countries should be denied employment and shipped back where they belong. There are estimated to be thirty million people living and working in countries other than the country of their origin in Europe. French jobs for the French; Italian jobs for Italians; and so forth. Sound familiar???

The most fearful prospect, Atkinson said, is that the United States and NATO are encouraging Germany to send troops into Yugoslavia as a part of the NATO forces--the first said use of German troops since the end of World War II--a happening that must not be allowed, Atkinson stated.

CFV CONTINUES IN DEFENSE OF PERVERSION

Having read much of the transcripts in regard to the actions of Colin Cook, Colorado for Family Values (CFV) reparative-therapist-in-residence, I can clearly state that I see no way that the perverse conversations and actions of Cook can in any way be ascribed to any other purpose than fulfilling his own sexual needs.

Cook appears to be a prime example of to what denial of one's sexuality can lead. Homosexual or heterosexual, repression of self-identity and denial of self-worth and self-respect often results in disastrous outcomes. People who are forced to live lives of denial of self often end up fulfilling themselves in the dark, proclaiming one thing in public, acting out their desires behind curtains of self-hate.

We see them in Palmer Parks, picking up prostitutes, molesting children, taking advantage of youth, raping, flashing, obsessed with sex and sexual fantasy. It doesn't matter whether they are homosexual or heterosexual. Stories coming out of reparative therapy facilities are full of "nighttime" sexual activities, followed by "daylight" protestations of cure.

Such is the result of the "brainwashing" promoted by Cook and CFV. This doesn't mean there aren't heterosexuals acting out homosexuality for some reason and it certainly doesn't mean there are not homosexuals acting out heterosexuality (a far greater number I am sure). There are both, and both need help in learning who they are--non-judgmental counseling designed to bring them into understanding and acceptance of who they are. Neither need or should continue living a live of denial.

If Cook were heterosexual and if Cook had been living a homosexual lifestyle in opposition to his true self; and if Cook, through counseling, self-examination and growth of self awareness, came to accept himself and came to find happiness and fulfillment living a heterosexual life--I would celebrate with him. This does not seem to be the case.

CFV needs at once to get off Cook's bandwagon and reject him for what he seems to be--a person perverted by his own rejection of self. Silence equals approval.

SAINT WILL

A Gazette Telegraph reader elevated Will Perkins, Chairman of Colorado for Family Values, to sainthood several weeks ago by declaring that he was a totally good man who would never deceive or lie.

, This canonization was as a result of viewpoints expressed by Ground Zero and Citizen's Project that it appeared as though Kevin Tebedo's departure from CFV was less than voluntary despite claims to the opposite by Perkins.

While I am careful not to tread on other people's saints, this deification seems misplaced. In fact, Perkins himself has in the past admitted to practicing the art of falsification and exaggeration. In a back issue of *Springs* Magazine, in an article by Richard Skorman entitled "Lunch With Will", Skorman, speaking of the wanton application of myths and stereotypes of gays and lesbian practiced by CFV, said; "*...CFV's message to its constituency is clear: most homosexuals are militant, unpatriotic, anti-Christian deviants who want to flaunt their own sexuality, convert youth, molest children and spread disease.*"

"*When we asked Perkins if he believed the above message was true,*" the Skorman article continued, "*he responded, 'probably not.' When we asked him if there were many examples of militant homosexual agendas and outrageous behavior in our community, he said 'no.'*"

Skorman continued, "*Was it positive to pander to people's worst fears about homosexuality, especially when gays and lesbians already feel so unwelcome in our city at the moment? 'No,'" he responded again. ...he [Perkins] explained that when fundraising, one has to motivate patrons to give.*"

Obviously, to Perkins, truth and honesty are only things of convenience, to be discarded when not profitable.

At the press conference announcing Tebedo's "amicable' departure from CFV, Perkins launched into a renewed use of classic use of anti-gay myths and stereotypes, almost all of which come from the bag of lies and misrepresentations of defrocked psychologist Paul Cameron and his "Family Research Institute." Chief among these is the claim that gay men die at an average age of forty-two because of their lifestyle.

Will Perkins has been part and parcel of the hate rhetoric and lies that have issued forth from CFV since its inception. And it should be pointed out that at the same press conference, he functionally endorsed all that Kevin has done and said in the past and all that he is currently involved in. A saint he is not.

SOVEREIGN

Those claiming to be Sovereigns denounce their federal citizenship, refuse to pay taxes, to have drivers licenses or license tags, etc., etc. They in fact claim to be aliens. Does it not seem justifiable, therefore, to require them to apply for green cards and to meet the residency requirements of other aliens??? Other aliens, becoming naturalized citizens, are required to swear loyalty to "these United States." Should this be a requirement of them before they are again accepted into full citizenship?

SUCCESS STORY

Brittany Weber, Ground Zero's intern plenipotentiare from Mesa State College, who ran the very successful rally in Centennial Hall, has been a valued part of the GZ family over the past month's. Her talents were recently recognized by the Gill Foundation, where she was hired as Administrative Assistant to the Director and Office Manager. Good luck Brittany.

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WE ARE A FAMILY — GROUND ZERO — LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

Dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying their participation in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

P. O. Box 1982 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
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GROUND ZERO NEWS
Business Card $15; 1/8th Page $30
1/4th Page $50; One Half Page $90
Full Page $160
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***Ground Zero is ever grateful to Tim Gill and the Gill Foundation for its continuing support of our efforts!!**
****With the notice that Ground Zero has received a $4,000 grant for General Support in 1996, the Chinook Fund has continued its three year support of GZ's activities into a fourth year. Thank you Chinook Fund!!**

QUOTABLES

Former Vice-President Dan Quayle seems to be moving into the spot of elder statesman of the Republican Party and the Christian Coalition. Less we forget, below are some of his choicer words.

"Republicans understand the importance of bondage between mother and child."

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."

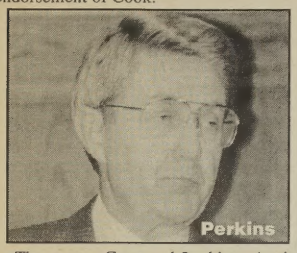
"A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls."

"My friends, no matter how rough the road may be, we can and we will never, never surrender to what is right."

"Welcome to President Bush, Mrs Bush, and my fellow astronauts."

GAY GROUP PLEDGES TO PICKET WILL PERKINS UNTIL HE WITHDRAWS CFV ENDORSEMENT OF COLIN COOK

Denver, November 27, 1995 -- One month after an Oct. 27 *Denver Post* article exposed the Rev. Colin Cook, a Colorado-based gay group has pledged to picket Will Perkins' Colorado Springs car dealership until Perkins withdraws CFV's continuing endorsement of Cook.



The group, Gays and Lesbians Against Immoral Lifestyle, will hold a sign saying "Will Perkins endorses Child Molester," and will hand out the current *Westword* article as well as the Oct. 27 *Denver Post* article detailing some of Cook's phone sex, and will hand out a letter to Perkins pleading with him to take necessary actions.

The picket will commence December 4 and will continue every day during the dealership's business hours until Perkins withdraws CFV's endorsement of Cook.

"Will Perkins is trying to avoid embarrassment for CFV by sneaking away from the Colin Cook scandal," said Rick Cendo, Colorado president of Gays and Lesbians Against Immoral Lifestyles. "But thousands of parents, teachers, counselors, pastors and others across Colorado believe what CFV has said and think Cook is a wonderful counselor for sexually troubled youth."

"Will Perkins is clearly more worried about CFV's P.R. image than about the lives and safety of young men and children. So the only way to make Perkins do the right thing is to apply P.R. pressure of our own," Cendo said.

The letter from Cendo to Perkins pledging an anti-child-molestation picket was faxed to CFV's headquarters today. A copy of the letter appears to the right.

EXCERPTS FROM THE *WESTWORD* ARTICLE ON P. 8

GLAIL Colorado President Rick Cendo Sent This Letter To Will Perkins

VIA FACSIMILE

Will Perkins Chairman Colorado for Family Values

November 27, 1995

Dear Mr. Perkins

One month has passed now since the *Denver Post* on October 27 exposed your "ex-gay" minister, Colin Cook, as a child molester who is currently engaging in phone sex with his clients -- clients who went to Cook in the first place because Colorado for Family Values has, across Colorado, endorsed, promoted and advertised Cook as a wonderful counselor for sexually troubled youth.

For the last month, Mr. Perkins, gay and lesbians organizations in Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs have pleaded with you to take three immediate, reasonable actions to protect young men and children in Colorado from the danger of sexual molestation -- a danger that has been created by you and Colorado for Family Values.

As you know, those actions are: notify everyone you have a record of attending your "Time to Stand" seminars this summer, in which Cook was the featured speaker, send a general letter of explanation to your entire membership, and run correctional advertisements in all the papers in which you originally advertised Colin Cook.

You have ignored all these requests. Furthermore, in the last month, you have taken self-contradictory and ever-changing positions regarding Colin Cook. Parents, teachers, counselors, pastors and others across Colorado -- people misled by CFV's endorsement, promotion, and advertisement of Cook -- have a right to know where you stand.

Your positions, however, have done nothing but create confusion. In the last month, you have repeatedly defended Cook in public, as well as distancing yourself from Cook in public. Meanwhile, you have alternatively suggested that you'll look into the allegations against Cook and that you'll let Cook investigate himself. You'll do something, you told the *Rocky Mountain News*, if Cook tells you that he himself has discovered on his own that he's done something wrong.

Here's what you said at the Nov. 7 press conference announcing Kevin Tebedo's "resignation:" "Colin Cook has been a very effective spokesperson. . .CFV does not believe the accusations against Cook."

On that same day, in the Nov. 7 *Rocky Mountain News*, you say, "We have no reason to disassociate ourselves from Colin Cook." Then you told the Denver Post that you have suspended CFV's sponsorship and financing of seminars that feature Cook, and that you're looking into the allegations against him.

But, wait, you told the *Rocky Mountain News*, "I'm sure he'll follow up on those rumors himself. If the facts come out that his actions were inappropriate, we'll take the necessary action. But we don't expect anything like that."

Where does CFV stand, Mr. Perkins?

Do you still believe the allegations against Cook are "rumors." Like your CFV co-founder and former leader, Kevin Tebedo, do you believe that the Denver Post manufactured the tape recordings showing Colin Cook having phone sex this summer with a counselee? (Excerpts from the tapes are printed in the current issue of *Westword*.)

Are you investigating this incident or are you leaving it to Cook to investigate himself?

It's been one month now, how long will it take for you to determine whether "grinding hugs" with clients and thanking Jesus for a pornographic model's "fleshy balls" is appropriate conduct for a CFV-endorsed counselor?

When, if ever, will you withdraw CFV's endorsement of Cook?

Given your ever-changing positions, your on-again, off-again defense of Cook, your silence about Tebedo's wild allegations against the *Denver Post*, and the enormous body of evidence against Cook, it's clear that you are attempting to sneak away from this scandal.

That may be good P.R., Mr. Perkins. It may save CFV the embarrassment of admitting it was wrong. But there are thousands of people all over Colorado that CFV has led to believe that Colin Cook is not only a competent counselor but a wonderful counselor. As Tebedo told the Post on Oct. 27, "The response to Colin (at last summer's seminars) has been tremendous. All the people thought he was top-notch."

Unless you take reasonable steps to protect these people by withdrawing CFV's endorsement of Cook, Mr. Perkins, we will picket your Colorado Springs Chrysler dealership with a sign that says "Will Perkins endorses Child Molester," hand out the current Westword article and the Oct. 27 Denver Post article about Cook, and let everyone possible know about your deplorable and shameful malfeasance. If you have us arrested, as Kevin Tebedo had me arrested at Cook's CFV appearances this summer, then we will stay in jail and begin a hunger strike. We'll do whatever is necessary to protect people from your CFV monster in minister's clothing.

You have to clear the air and set the record straight, Mr. Perkins. It's only right. You can't sneak away from this one. We won't let you.

Sincerely,

Richard Cendo Colorado President Gays and Lesbians Against Immoral Lifestyles

Designed to reach the non-gay population of Colorado Springs, Ground Zero will insert a four page newspaper in *THE INDEPENDENT* beginning January 15th.

HELP US REFUTE THE MYTHS!!!.

This project will cost $15,000 for one year. Be listed as a sponsor, be a sustaining supporter of the project or send a one time contribution for this important outreach.

YES ! Count Me In!

***I want to be a part of Ground Zero's project to counter the myths, lies and stereotypes by printing stories of about real gays and lesbians and issues in a four page newspaper to be inserted in The Independent* monthly. I am enclosing:**

- ☐ **A One Time Donation of $_____, or**
- ☐ **I want to be a Sustaining supporter in the amount of $_____per month. I have enclosed the first installment, or**
- ☐ **I want to be listed in the insert as a monthly sponsor at $_____ per month (minimum $25). Enclosed is my first Payment, bill me monthly, or,**
- ☐ **Charge my above contribution to my Visa Or Master Card. Sustaining pledges will be automatically charged on the tenth of each month.**

Card Number_____EXP. DATE_____

Name on Card_____Phone #_____

Street/Box_____City_____State____Zip_____

If Sponsor, name to be listed_____Signature_____

Got a microwave just sitting around doing nothing because you believe that it's a part of a conspiracy to make you sterile? Well, there are so many conspiracies against us now at the center that one more doesn't matter and we sure could use a working Microwave.

The Male Box BBS
Alternative Lifestyles Computer Bulletin Board System
Gay/BI/Lesbian
Matchmaking, HOT Adult chat, Files, Games, Internet & Much more
Modem: 719-637-0532
Telnet & WWW: TMB-BBS.COM
Do you own a modem and don't know how to use it? Call voice 719-570-7994 for help and free windows software.

Freedom Writer

A HARD LOOK AT THE HARD RIGHT

*Editor's note: Elsewhere in this issue you will find a story about local events, part of a national program, to prepare a town for the arrival of radical right hate groups. Called "Not In Our Town," the program is modeled after one instituted by the good people of Billings, Montana when extremist groups made their presence known. Below is **FREEDOM WRITER's** suggestions for reaction by activists.*

Activist Guide

10 things to do when the Radical Right comes to town

Identify all your allies

Because every issue has its constituency, sometimes the important tasks of identifying just how broad that constituency it gets short shrift from organizers. The truth is that when it comes to battling the Radical Right, activists will find no shortage of individuals and organizations who have reason to be involved. Among those who interests are affected:

Librarians and library associations. They are often the targets of censorship efforts.

Video and software dealers. Again, censorship.

Gay and Lesbian organizations. The Radical Right is leading the charge in the opposition to gay rights.

Mainstream clergy. The religious community finds much to object to in the Radical Rights agenda.

Reproductive choice advocates. With clinics being blockaded in communities across the country, and anti-choice legislation being considered in state legislatures and city councils, the choice community has ample reason to be concerned.

Artists and art groups. Censorship, yet again.

Moderate Republicans. As the Christian Coalition moves forward with its promise to take over the GOP, moderates are being squeezed out.

Civil rights groups. The Radical Right has never met a civil rights bill it liked.

Parents and educators. The schools are among the chief battleground.

Environmental groups. Particularly in the west, the Radical Right is looking to gut environmental enforcement.

Not every group may join in every battle, but make it your business to reach out to a broader constituency. And remember the old organizer's saying: if you're comfortable with everybody at the table, your coalition is too small. Get your own ducks in a row before the battle begins.

No wounds are worse than those that are self-inflicted. In the schools, for example, the Radical Right has made considerable hay out of incidents where teachers or administrators mistakenly confiscated Bibles from students study hall. Or they've been able to win public sympathy when counter protests by mainstream groups turn violent. Be sure you don't hand your opponents an issue by failing to get your policies in place and understood before the battle begins.

Know thy enemy. Research!

Know who it is you're fighting and what it is they really care about. Get on their mailing lists, send representatives to their public meetings, read their literature. Also, be alert for outside organizations that may, be helping local ones. Chances are that if your local opponent turns up with a pot of money, or a sudden, new-found expertise in a particular issue, a national Radical Right organization may be operating behind the scenes.

That kind of information is not just interesting, it's powerful. If you can demonstrate that a national organization is behind a local initiative, particularly one that doesn't have the courage to reveal itself, you can raise appropriate questions about what it is that the local group has to hide, and why it is that a national group is trying to set policy for your community.

Also, remember that if ties to national organizations are established, you can and should give your opponents the opportunity to defend the broader agenda of those national organizations. If you're dealing with a local Christian Coalition chapter, let them defend Pat Robertson's view on a range of issues.

Continued on P. 14
See Activist Guide

RADICAL RIGHT UPDATE

Buckley's advice to Coalition

Washington, DC--In an article titled "Listening to Mr. Right," Michael Cromartie, for Christianity Today, recently interviewed National Review founder William F. Buckley, Jr. One of the questions posed was: "What warnings would you have for the leaders of the Christian Coalition and other evangelical organizations and individuals speaking out on social issues?"

Buckley replied: "What frightens people most about the Religious Right is the rhetoric that is sometimes used. There ought to be some thought given, for example, as to how much you formulate your anti-homosexual position: it should be more pastoral than vitriolic.

"Now, I haven't entirely figured out a way to do it, and I haven't given it as much thought as I should have. But I have found myself consciously, in the last several years, avoiding just plain old fashion gay bashing. In the first place, it is unchristian, and in the second place, it just doesn't work. It doesn't persuade anybody of anything."

CNP honors D'souza

Nashville, Tennessee--With about 360 members and guests present, the Council for National Policy, at its September 29th and 30th meeting at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, honored Dinesh D'Souza, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, with its Winston Churchill Award. Mr. D'Souza is the author of the controversial book, The End of Racism: Principals of a Multiracial Society.

As a result of D'Souza's book, other fellows at the American Enterprise Institute, a leading conservative think tank, have disassociated themselves from the organization. Glenn Loury, economics professor at Boston University, and Bob Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, both black, denounced the book. Woodson called D'Souza "the Mark Fuhrman of public policy." He said, "The End of Racism, the title itself is a deceit, fans the flames of racial animosity."

Other black conservatives, including writer Shelby Steele and magazine editor/publishers Gwen and Willie Richardson, have also denounced the book.

With chapter titles such as "Uncle Tom's dilemma: Pathologies of Black Culture," and "The Content of Our Chromosomes," D'Souza writes about "a natural hierarchy of racial abilities." He also suggests that segregation was a system to designed "to protect blacks."

Michael Cromartie, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said, "There are certain phrases and arguments that Dinesh uses in the book that either could have been edited out or not said."

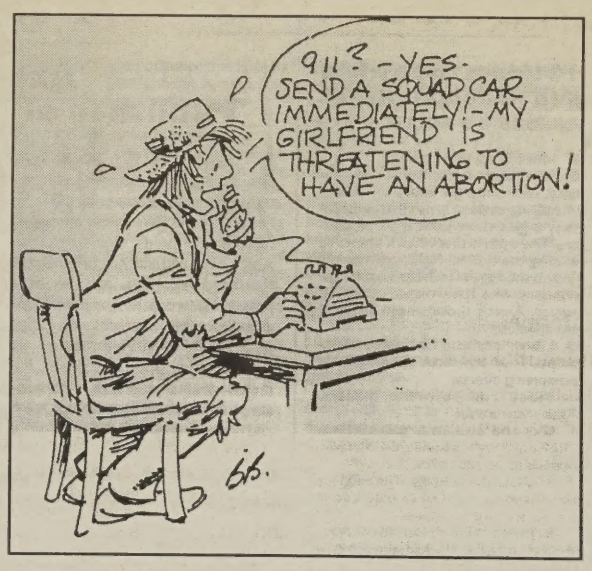
With almost 600 members the secretive Council for National Policy is a virtual "Who's Who" of the radical political and Religious Right. The group meets four times a year to socialize, network, and plan national conservative strategy.

Police Prevent Abortion

Blair, Nebraska--Within 48 hours after making an appointment for abortion counseling, a 15 year old high school freshman was picked up by the police and placed in a foster home in order to prevent her from having an abortion.

Now, a year later, "Mary Smith" is suing the parents of her baby's now 17-year-old father, local police, county officials, a doctor, and a physician's assistant, in a federal court in Lincoln, Nebraska. The girl is charging trespass, false arrest, and assault.

Last year, after the young couple confirmed the pregnancy, Mary decided to have an abortion. However, Heath Mayfield, her boyfriend, begged her not to. Then, Heath's mother, Cathy Tull, got a local physician's assistant to write a letter saying an abortion would be "harmful. . .even fatal. . . to the mother." A doctor co-signed the letter, even though neither of them had examined the girl.



Tull took the letter to the police, who consulted the county attorney. Next the complaint says, the police responded with 10 squad cars to take the teenager into custody and place her into a foster home. According to the police report, the action was based on "the health risk to Mary if an abortion was performed at this stage due to the fact the an abortion was planned."

By the time Mary appeared in court, her pregnancy was too along to opt for an abortio.

The Rutherford Institute, a Radical Religious Right legal organization, is defending the boy's parents on the ground's of "free speech--the father's right to express his concerns and convictions to the mother.

The American Civil Liberties Union is representing Mary Smith. The group is applying the Freedom of Access to Clinical Entrances Act, saying the 1994 law applies to pregnant women in all places and in all times. The case is expected to be heard before the end of this year.

Thousands pray at their poles

Colorado Springs, Colorado--What begin five years ago when a small group of Texas high school students gathered to pray around their school's flagpole has now become a worldwide movement that embraced an estimated 2 million students last year.

Although the final count is still being tabulated for the September 20, 1995 event, Doug Clark, promotion coordinator for "See you at the pole," told Pastor's Weekly Briefing, "We're seeing a significant increase in the number of kids praying this year despite terrible weather in many cities across America. For instance 1,200 participated last year in Wichita. This year it was 2,100."

Organizers estimate 75% of all high schools have students participating. In addition, Clark said the number of "post pole" rallies and other results appear to be up from last year. "They are not just praying one day," explained Clark. "They are starting campus Bible studies by the thousands and ongoing prayer meetings to reach their friends for Christ. 'See You at the Pole' is just the tip of the iceberg." (The Pastor's Weekly Briefing, 9/23/95)

Back to basics with Baldwin

San Diego, California--Although he has been in office for only nine months, Assemblyman Steve Baldwin has worked tirelessly to promote his agenda. Though education was not one of his initial priorities, he has directed most of his attention toward California's public education policies and programs since he was appointed vice-chair of the Assembly Education Committee.

Earlier this year, Baldwim participated in a public education conference in San Diego sponsored by Concerned Women for America, a right-wing christian women's group. During a panel discussion Baldwin stated, "The things that are going on in our school system today regarding levitation exercises and dialectal journalism and fixations on feelings and attitudes and beliefs to me is one of the key issues that we must fight."

Although Baldwin's views may seem laughable, some Californian politicians apparently take him seriously. "Steve Baldwin's greatest weakness as vice-chair of Assembly Education is that he is an intellectual," commented Assemblyman Jim Rogan. "When you have someone with great intellect in the lead, people can be threatened." (Adapted from Mainstream Voters Project Bulletin!)

Freedom Writer
A HARD LOOK AT THE HARD RIGHT

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